

has been sanctified by the blood of thousands of U.S. soldiers who have fought across the world, and it must be protected from desecration. This proposed constitutional amendment would overturn the 1989 U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling which held that laws banning desecration of the U.S. flag were unconstitutional infringements on free speech and therefore a violation of the first amendment.

I am proud of the first amendment right to free speech and will always ensure all Americans maintain that right. I am also proud of the American flag and the values behind it. The American flag flies over this great country as a symbol of liberty and patriotism. Desecration of the flag would be destruction of the core principles on which this great Nation was founded. I will continue to be an advocate on behalf of the American flag and the values the flag represents.

I encourage my colleagues to support this measure and join me in ensuring the everlasting integrity of the American flag.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 107—COMMENDING ANNICE M. WAGNER, CHIEF JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS, FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. COBURN, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 107

Whereas Annice M. Wagner, Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, entered Federal Government service in 1973 as the first woman to be appointed General Counsel of the National Capital Housing Authority, then a Federal agency;

Whereas, from 1975 to 1977, the Honorable Annice M. Wagner served as People's Counsel for the District of Columbia, an office created by Congress to represent the interests of utility consumers before the District of Columbia Public Service Commission and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals;

Whereas, in 1977, the Honorable Annice M. Wagner was appointed by President Carter and confirmed by the Senate to serve as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court for the District of Columbia;

Whereas, while serving as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, the Honorable Annice M. Wagner served in the civil, criminal, family, probate, and tax divisions and served for 2 years as presiding judge of the probate and tax divisions;

Whereas, while serving as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, Annice M. Wagner served on various commissions and committees to improve the District of Columbia judicial system, including serving as chairperson of the Committee on Selection and Tenure of Hearing Commissioners, and as a member of the Superior Court Rules Com-

mittee and the Sentencing Guidelines Commission;

Whereas, as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, Annice M. Wagner served as chairperson of the Court's Advisory Committee on Probate and Fiduciary Rules and was largely responsible for the implementation of new rules intended to streamline and clarify procedures regarding missing, protected, and incapacitated individuals;

Whereas, as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court, the Honorable Annice M. Wagner served as chairperson of the Task Force on Gender Bias in the Courts, which conducted a comprehensive study of bias in the courts;

Whereas, under Annice M. Wagner's leadership, the District of Columbia courts established the Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the Courts to ensure racial, gender, and ethnic fairness;

Whereas Annice M. Wagner was appointed by President George H.W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate in 1990 to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals;

Whereas Annice M. Wagner was appointed in 1994 to serve as Chief Judge of the District Court of Appeals;

Whereas, while Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Annice M. Wagner served as Chair of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia;

Whereas, under Annice M. Wagner's leadership, the District of Columbia courts initiated the renovation of the Old District of Columbia Courthouse (Old City Hall) in Judiciary Square, a National Historic Landmark, for future use by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals;

Whereas, under Annice M. Wagner's leadership, the District of Columbia courts initiated the master planning process for the renovation and use of unused or underutilized court properties, which will lead to the revitalization of the Judiciary Square area in the Nation's Capital;

Whereas, under Annice M. Wagner's leadership, the Court of Appeals, along with the District of Columbia Bar, the District of Columbia Bar Foundation, and the District of Columbia Consortium of Legal Service Providers, established the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission, a commission that will propose ways to make lawyers and the legal system more available for poor individuals in the District of Columbia;

Whereas Annice M. Wagner served as President of the Conference of Chief Justices, an organization of Chief Justices and Chief Judges of the highest court of each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories;

Whereas Annice M. Wagner served as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts;

Whereas the Honorable Annice M. Wagner commands wide respect within the legal profession nationally, having been selected to serve as one of 11 members of the American Bar Association's Section on Dispute Resolution's Drafting Committee on the Uniform Mediation Act, which collaborated with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in promulgating the Uniform Mediation Act, which, in 2001, was approved and recommended for enactment in all of the States, to foster prompt, economical, and amicable resolution of disputes through mediation processes which promote public confidence and uniformity across state lines;

Whereas, since 1979, Annice M. Wagner has been involved with the United Planning Organization, which was established in 1962 to conduct initiatives designed to provide human services in the District of Columbia

and she has served as Interim President of the Organization's Board of Trustees;

Whereas, since 1986, Annice M. Wagner has participated as a member of a teaching team for the Trial Advocacy Workshop at Harvard Law School;

Whereas Annice M. Wagner, Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, was born in the District of Columbia and attended District of Columbia Public Schools and received her Bachelor's and law degrees from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan; and

Whereas Annice M. Wagner's dedication to public service and the citizens of the District of Columbia has contributed to the improvement of the judicial system, increased equal access to justice, and advanced public confidence in the court system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends the Honorable Annice M. Wagner for her commitment and dedication to public service, the judicial system, equal access to justice, and the community.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I am submitting a Senate resolution to commend Chief Judge Annice M. Wagner of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for more than 32 years of public service. As the Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which has oversight jurisdiction of the District of Columbia courts, I believe that it is important to recognize the contributions of Chief Judge Wagner who will be retiring this year. As chief judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals, she has worked closely with the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on various issues related to the D.C. courts and the justice system in the District.

Chief Judge Wagner entered Federal Government service in 1973 as the first woman to be appointed General Counsel of the National Capital Housing Authority, then a Federal agency. Subsequently, she served as People's Counsel for the District of Columbia, an office created by Congress to represent the interests of utility consumers before the District of Columbia Public Service Commission and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

Chief Judge Wagner was twice confirmed by the Senate. First, in 1977, when she was nominated by President Jimmy Carter to serve as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court for the District of Columbia and again when she was nominated by President George H. W. Bush, in 1990, to serve as an Associate Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals. She was later appointed, in 1994, to serve as chief judge. During her 28 years of service in the D.C. courts, she served in every division of the D.C. Superior Court, and served for two years as presiding judge of the Probate and Tax divisions. She also served on various commissions and committees, including serving as chairperson of the Committee on Selection and Tenure of Hearing Commissioners, Chair of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia, and as a member of the Superior Court Rules Committee and the Sentencing Guidelines Commission.

Chief Judge Wagner has also demonstrated a commitment to improving access to justice. To this end, she served as chairperson of the Court's Advisory Committee on Probate and Fiduciary Rules and was largely responsible for the implementation of new rules intended to streamline and clarify procedures regarding the affairs of missing, protected, and incapacitated individuals. She also served as chairperson of the Task Force on Gender Bias in the Courts, which conducted a comprehensive study of bias in the courts and, under her leadership, the District of Columbia courts established the Standing Committee on Fairness and Access to the Courts to ensure racial, gender, and ethnic fairness.

More recently, under her leadership, the Court of Appeals, along with the District of Columbia Bar, the District of Columbia Bar Foundation, and the District of Columbia Consortium of Legal Service Providers, established the D.C. Access to Justice Commission, a commission that will propose ways to make lawyers and access to justice more available for poor individuals in the District of Columbia.

Chief Judge Wagner's work at the D.C. courts also extends beyond legal issues. As the space needs of the District of Columbia courts continued to grow beyond their current building, Chief Judge Wagner led the effort to examine solutions to resolve the courts continued space problems. Her efforts led the D.C. courts to plan and initiate the renovation of the Old Courthouse/City Hall in Judiciary Square, a National Historic Landmark, for the future use by the D.C. Court of Appeals. In addition, as Congress enacted new legislative mandates on the courts which further increased their space needs, under her leadership, the District of Columbia courts initiated the master planning process for the renovation and use of all court properties in Judiciary Square. This effort will result not only in the improvement of court operations, but is expected to lead to the revitalization of the Judiciary Square area in the Nation's Capital.

Chief Judge Wagner's service also extends beyond the boundaries of the District. She has served as President of the Conference of Chief Justices, an organization of chief justices and chief judges of the highest court of each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the territories, as chairperson of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts, and as one of eleven members of the American Bar Association's Section on Dispute Resolution's Drafting Committee on the Uniform Mediation Act which collaborated with the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in promulgating the Uniform Mediation Act, which, in 2001, was approved and recommended for enactment in all the States, to foster prompt, economical, and amicable res-

olution of disputes through mediation processes which promote public confidence and uniformity across state lines.

Chief Judge Wagner's dedication and service to the District of Columbia and to the judicial system are highly commendable and warrant our recognition.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 108—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE NATION DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, MAY 2 THROUGH 8, 2005

Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 108

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to honor and celebrate the commitment of men and women who meet the needs of the Nation through work at all levels of government;

Whereas over 18,000,000 individuals work in government service in every city, county, and State across America and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials perform essential services the Nation relies upon every day;

Whereas the United States of America is a great and prosperous nation, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the Nation benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of these highly trained individuals;

Whereas public servants—

(1) help the Nation recover from natural disasters and terrorist attacks;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to our military and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fire;

(4) deliver the United States mail;

(5) deliver social security and medicare benefits;

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and the Nation's parks;

(8) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(9) teach and work in our schools and libraries;

(10) improve and secure our transportation systems;

(11) keep the Nation's economy stable; and

(12) defend our freedom and advance United States interests around the world;

Whereas public servants at every level of government are hard-working men and women, committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States, and are on the front lines in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with

other countries and cultures in order to better represent America's interests and promote American ideals;

Whereas Federal, State, and local government employees have risen to the occasion and demonstrated professionalism, dedication, and courage while fighting the war against terrorism;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the men and women serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, as well as those skilled trade and craft Federal employees who provide support to their efforts, contribute greatly to the security of the Nation and the world;

Whereas government workers have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas, and serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas May 2 through 8, 2005, has been designated Public Service Recognition Week to honor America's Federal, State, and local government employees;

Whereas the theme for Public Service Recognition Week 2005 is Celebrating Government Workers Nationwide to highlight the important work civil servants perform throughout the Nation; and

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week is celebrating its 21st anniversary through job fairs, student activities, and agency exhibits: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to this great Nation;

(2) salutes their unyielding dedication and spirit for public service;

(3) honors those government employees who have given their lives in service to their country;

(4) calls upon a new generation of workers to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession; and

(5) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at all levels of government.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to America's public servants. Whether it is at the Federal, State, or local level, the men and women who choose public service provide essential services that we rely on every day. As the ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, I am pleased to submit a resolution honoring these employees and celebrating Public Service Recognition Week. I am delighted to be joined by the leadership of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Senators VOINOVICH, COLLINS, LIEBERMAN, COLEMAN, LEVIN, COBURN, and CARPER.

The 21st anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week, which takes place the week of May 2, 2005, showcases the talented individuals who serve their country as Federal, State and local government employees, both civilian and military. From Hawaii to Maine, throughout the Nation, and around the world, public employees use the week to educate their fellow citizens on Government services make life better for all of us and the exciting challenges of a career in public service.

Public servants are teachers, members of the Armed Forces, civilian defense workers, postal employees, food